

# Alvington News

*Published by the Alvington Parish Council*

**Do you read the Newsletter? No, then please read this one as it has a big impact on Alvington.**

## ALVINGTON PARISH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

At the February Parish Council meeting lengthy discussions were undertaken after a presentation by Kate Baugh (a Forest of Dean Community Advisor) on the creation of a Parish Development Plan {referred to as the PLAN in this document}. Essentially this is a document created by the parishioners which when approved will form the basis and must be seriously considered when residential and commercial planning applications are submitted to the Forest of Dean District Council Planning Department.

The meeting, [which was well attended by Parishioners] approved of the creation of this PLAN. A number of those attending the meeting submitted their names as those interested in forming a steering committee to push this PLAN forward.

We are asking any residents who are interested in joining

this group to contact either myself or our Parish Clerk Andrew Maliphant. Obviously a large group would mean less work and effort for each member. What this steering group will definitely need is input from as many residents as possible to create this legal document. Facts, figures and proven information are essential and not rumour, supposition and unproven figures.

Please keep in mind that this PLAN does not restrict itself to the village but the whole Parish and views and implications are equally important and indeed essential as we must address issues in our remote farmlands and residential areas.

So you Farmers, please let us have input from you. At the end of this document creation, a referendum must be held in the Parish as to whether the PLAN can be presented by the steering committee to the Authorities for approval and ratification. This

referendum will require a minimum of 50% of the residents to either adopt. Modify or reject it.

As with all such documents, Kate stated that the timescale from commencement to implementation will take about 2 years.

*Continued on Page 2, Column 1*



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*Continued from Page 1*

The PLAN must take notice of current Allocations Plan issued by Local authorities and Government directives. At the moment this is entirely in our favour hence the need to make progress quickly.

Although promoted by the Parish Council, it is not led by the Parish Council; however a member will be on the steering committee throughout the process as a legal requirement. When activated, the new Alvington web site will have a continuous progress report on the PLAN and any information that the steering group is seeking.

## **Grassed Areas to be improved**

This year will also see the start of a Parish Council enterprise to improve two areas of grass on the side of the A48.

Tenders have been received to cut the sites that until now have been neglected. They are the strip of ground running along the side of the footpath and abutting the stone wall edge to the paddock, all opposite the 'Blacksmiths' and the vicarage. Also the plot on the corner of Clanna Road and the A48 (between the corner and the telephone box).

Hopefully this will give a better aspect to people not only who live in the parish, but travellers using the A48.

## **New Alvington Web Site**

To bring us in line with modern transparency requirements, a new Alvington web site is in the process of being developed. Grant aided, this new site will bring the features needed with today's technology, from downloadable

files to links with Facebook, twitter and other social media exchanges. It is hoped that the new site will be up and running within a few weeks and that it will still be: - [www.alvingtonvillage.org](http://www.alvingtonvillage.org)

Any businesses or clubs within the Parish can contact me or Andrew Maliphant to add notices or promote events on there calendar. Two that spring to mind are the Cricket club and Ali's dog group.

## **"Smartwater" Marking**

After taking advice from the Police, the Parish Council has recently invested in a 'SMARTWATER package'.

Those of you who visit the playing field will no doubt be aware of the signs we put up announcing this fact.

All equipment has been treated with Smartwater so that theft can lead to discovery and recovery far easier and faster.

## **Have you any ideas?**

The Parish Council have been deliberating over the purchase and possible location of a Defibrillator for the village. Certain Grants are available, possibly to cover half the cost (Total cost being approx £2000). Several locations have been suggested:- The Globe side entrance, Garage (open 24hrs with CCTV), Village hall, Vicarage. None are ideal as it really needs to

be located at the centre of the village and not cause problems for the property owners. Any helpful suggestions would be gratefully welcome.

## **Tree Surgery In Church Grounds**

This year sees the third in the St Andrews Church grounds tree surgery plan. Some major work has been undertaken and with this years work completed, we as a Council responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard will be consulting with professional arboreal contractors to compile an annual maintenance plan, probably on a two year rotation basis.

One such plan has already been submitted by the contractor undertaking the existing program and his suggestions are in keeping with our own thoughts. This plan does not take into consideration any emergency work that may arise, and be attended to.

## **Parish Councillor reluctantly Resigns**

Sadly I have to announce that Jen Bates has had to resign from the position of Parish Councillor. The love of her Day Job and the pressures it has on her life leaves her with no alternative. We will miss her if only because she was the only one able to control Paul her husband and Vice Chairman.

## **CHARITY EVENT, MAY 29th**

### **IN MEMORY OF JOHN LOGI VOLNEY**

This charity event is being organized by Lea Marie James in memory of John with the intention of raising funding to repair the children's school after being destroyed by a hurricane.

Dave Crook is organizing the John Logi Volney Cricket Team playing the Alvington Woolaston team organized by Nick Powell. There are lots of activities being organized with a BBQ, Pig roast, Bouncy Castle etc.

The Parish Council are not charging a fee for the hire of the Playing Field and are offering any support they may be asked for.

**Please come along and support this very worthy cause for one of the memorable village characters.**

***Have you a business or enterprise that you would like to advertise in our Newsletter? Tel: 528420***

## THE ALVINGTON PLAYING FIELDS - FUTURE PLANS

We have recently formed a new group, within the playing Fields Committee, to explore the future development of the playing fields for the benefit of all age groups with Alvington Village.

This group consists of representatives from the Cricket Club, The Dog Training Club and 3 members of the village who have an interest in developing the area near the Trim Trail into a play area for the younger children.

### Future Plans

The Playing Fields Committee, report to the Parish Council, and are exploring the expansion of the playing fields for benefit of the villagers.

As well as the interest for the development of areas for the younger children it is intended to explore the area near the storage containers to locate the pre-existing drains and obtain quotes for the erection of toilet facilities.

One of the concerns raised at a recent meeting was the issue of who will be responsible for the cleanliness of the toilets and surrounding area. Initially it may be that the toilets can only be opened for specific events but this is under review.

Long term it is hoped to raise funding to build a Pavilion for the use of the various clubs, and will include showers, toilets and facilities to provide light refreshments. This is however a long term plan that will require significant funding and fund raising.

A recent survey by the Gloucester Playing Fields Assoc gave the fields a score of Average, with no significant negative areas apart from dog fouling and litter, and the cricket pitch received a score of Good.

### Children's Play Area.

Discussions are underway to explore the needs of the various age groups and these involve such

things as swings and a structure, like a fort, that the children can play in.

Preparatory talks have taken place with several suppliers and some issues, such as safety, have been explored. One of the outcomes was that as long as feet are no higher than 1 metre off the ground then the existing grass will be safe. The area would be fenced off to ensure that no dogs or wildlife can foul the area. Sadly some people do not pick up after their animals.

One of the members of the group has also looked at Wigaloo's! These are structures that resemble the Inuit/Eskimo Igloos but are made of willow branches that take root and form a living shelter, they would require some basic trimming but sound like a worthwhile project.

### Seating Areas

The Parish Council have already funded 1 picnic bench and are considering the future purchase of more seating facilities, for all ages, including benches. Villagers may wish to have dedicated benches in memory of loved ones that have passed on, and this would be a welcome addition to the playing fields enabling people to enjoy the views across the river.

### Funding

As you will be aware all of the plans for the development of the playing fields will require substantial amounts of funding which we are exploring. This will involve approaching various organisations to explore Grants, Donations as well as fund raising within the village.

Currently there no plans to raise the Parish precept to support these ventures and this is important to note there should be no impact on individuals within the village.

The Committee are currently seeking funding from the Heritage Fund and this involves huge amounts of paperwork and

requires answers to specific questions such as "How involved are the village", "What input have you had from villagers of all ages" "How involved are the future users of the equipment required"? Sadly, despite raising these issues on the Facebook pages and at meetings there has been little response or suggestions, hopefully the Newsletter may generate more interest. It would be helpful to the future needs if the committee could have suggestions as to the needs and contact the Parish Council if they would like to participate in the planning or help out in any way. For example we could half the cost of the childrens play equipment if we all got together and gave some of our time to help build the fort ourselves.

We have already had an offer from one of the committee who has "volunteered" her builder husband and father in law. I feel this would be a wonderful opportunity to involve people in the village scheme.

### Cost of current upkeep of the Playing Fields.

The maintenance of the playing Fields stands at £1500 per annum for grass cutting, insurance, Public Liability, accountability to the Gloucester Playing Fields Assoc and emptying of dog waste bins.

These are all legal requirements that the Parish Council are liable for. In order to offset these costs there is a charge for the official use of the Playing Fields, which currently offset these costs by between 50 and 75 percent, without these incomes, the villagers would be liable for the entire funding. It is for this reason that there is a minimal charge for users when using the field in, what is considered to be "Official" ventures. This does NOT include just walking the field or sitting having a picnic or using the Trim Trail.

**YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS  
PARISH COUNCIL**

*The Council meets every month but not in January and August. Members of the public are welcome to attend.*

Gary Collier, Chairman. Telephone: 528420. E-mail: gary@gcollier.demon.co.uk  
Paul Smooker, Vice Chairman. Telephone: 01594 528318.

Email: edmundsmooker@live.com

Beveley Collier. Tel: 01594 528420. E-Mail: beveley@gcollier.demon.co.uk

Ann Thomas. Telephone: 01594 529009

Parish Clerk: Andrew Maliphant. Telephone: 544456.

E-mail: andrewparishclerk@btinternet

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Terry Glastonbury. Telephone: 562102. E-mail: terry.glastonbury@fdean.gov.uk

Marion Winship. Telephone: 528289. E-mail: marion.winship@fdean.gov.uk

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Patrick Molyneux.

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

Mark Harper, MP. Telephone: 823482. E-mail: harperm@parliament.uk

**POLICE & COMMUNITY  
OFFICERS**

**Non Emergency Number: 101**

**Community Officers:**

PCO Robert Gee.

Telephone: 0845 090 1234

**Rural Beat Officer:**

W.P.C. Denise Meredith.

Telephone: 01452 335544

**Street Wardens:**

Telephone: 01594 812264

**Neighbourhood Watch:**

Telephone: 01452 335570

**SNOW WARDENS**

John Wintour. Telephone: 01594


529234 and Roger Lewis.

**VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS**

Terry Jones (Treasurer).

Telephone: 529287

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Coordinator: Gary Collier,

01594 528420

Deputy: John Wintour, 01594 529234

If anyone (should an emergency arise) would be willing to give support in the Hall whether it be making tea, refreshments or plain consolation and support, please give your telephone number to me for inclusion in my contacts list. *Gary Collier*

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District Council, Forest of Dean

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Dr Bennetts' practice 01594 842167

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